

SCHOOLS

# New Elements to learning

Former Bay Farm teacher opens Montessori school

By Andria Farrell  
ANFARREL@CNC.COM

Former Bay Farm Montessori Academy teaching assistant Paula Doyle is branching out and opening her own school, Elements Montessori, in Duxbury this fall.

Doyle worked at Bay Farm for five years. After receiving her Montessori training from the Northeast Montessori Institute three years ago, she went to Endicott College to earn her master's degree in early childhood with a focus on Montessori. Upon graduating, she knew she wanted to open her own school.

After searching the South Shore for the perfect location, she settled on a home with two acres of land in Summer Street in Duxbury across the street from Bongi's, next to the Tarklin tennis courts.

"We endeavor that as our children make their way into the world, they find harmony, joy, and peace in all their many relationships ... from the classroom to the cosmos," reads the Elements Montessori mission statement.

Doyle said her thesis project, "Elements of Peace: A Look at Inner Peace and Education," inspired her curriculum concept of "Elements of Peace." Although Doyle's school follows the teachings of Dr. Maria Montessori, it also features aspects of peace and nature specific to Doyle's own discoveries and research.

"What better thing to do with my life than to help to educate children, not even educating for peace, but teaching that we are all born peaceful?" she said. "To ask as a child to sit and be told for six hours a day is detrimental to their spirit and inner peacefulness."

The partly woody and landscaped land suits the peaceful and nature-friendly Montessori atmosphere Doyle is bringing to her school. She said her curriculum is based around environmen-



Paula Doyle, who will be opening Elements Montessori in Duxbury this fall. COURTESY PHOTO

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tal stewardship and peaceful living. Children will have the opportunity to explore nature, go on nature field trips, participate in Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program, establish relationships with the elders at a local residential care facility, go on field visits to at the New England Wildlife Center, participate in pond, brook and forest investigation at Doyle's 18-acre homestead in Hanover and more.

Doyle's schooling is based around educating to love peacefully and the five major components to retaining inner peace: global love, freedom of spirit, attunement, interconnectedness, meaningful relationships and diversity.

The program will offer morning and afternoon classes, as well as full-day classes and a full-day kindergarten program. Doyle has arranged the morning and afternoon programs to overlap so all children will be present at the school for lunch. Although the children should bring their own lunches, they will also be provided with salads, pastas and soups

that the kindergartners will help buy at the supermarket and prepare at the school.

"Children will help in the preparation part of the food as part of the kindergarten program," Doyle said. "They will go through flyers, and we will bring them in to buy produce so they can really have a hand in what we are serving. In the morning we will provide baked breads and muffins for the day and fruit smoothies. We are nurturing not only their minds, but their bodies."

Elements Montessori will be a mixed classroom from ages 2.9 to 6. Doyle is hoping to have 10 children in each of the three programs offered. Today (April 18), Doyle is holding an open enrollment at Duxbury Free Library from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information on the school and enrolment visit the Element Montessori Web site at [elementsmontessori.com](http://elementsmontessori.com), or contact Doyle at [paula@elementsmontessori.com](mailto:paula@elementsmontessori.com) or 781-585-8222.